



From Class Clown to Rodeo Clown, Shawn ‘Boom-Boom’ Thompson Brings a Barrel of Laughs



Shawn Boom Boom Thompson will have the audience on the edge of their lawn chairs and blankets.

By Jen Miller
Staff Writer

From class clown to rodeo clown, Shawn “Boom-Boom” Thompson will bring a barrel of laughs to the Hawley Rodeo. His traditional, with a modern twist

performance, will have spectators on the edge of their lawn chairs and the bulls, rolling over in laughter.

It takes an impressive amount of talent to entertain an audience while there’s a two-ton bull in the arena with you. How does one even discover they have that kind of

talent? How exactly does one get into the Rodeo Clown business? It’s not like rodeoing is a common high school sport with a chance at a scholarship that leads to a four-year degree. Where does one even pick up an application or audition?

“Some kids are born into a rich

family. I got lucky and was born into a Rodeo Clown family,” Rodeo Clown Trent McFarland said during the 62nd Annual Hawley Rodeo. “I was even luckier to learn everything I knew from my dad. I like to joke that while most dads were teaching their son how to throw a football, my dad was teaching me how to put on makeup.”

“I grew up listening to my dad tell stories about rodeo-living and bullfighting. When I was fifteen, I started fighting bulls. As I got older, I knew it wasn’t a lifelong career, and being the class clown, I knew which road to venture down

next,” Rodeo Clown Allan Dessel commented during the 60th Annual Hawley Rodeo.

Growing up in the Rodeo world has always been the answer to how guys got started in the rodeo clown business, but this is the first time in my twelve years of interviewing rodeo clowns that I have heard a rodeo clown say it was his “smart mouth” that got him into the business.

Shawn Thompson was your typical class clown in a small school. His graduating class slightly

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